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Implementation of the UNECE Statistical Programme 2016

Addendum

Report of the Joint UNECE / Eurostat Workshop on Implementing the Common Statistical Production Architecture

Note by the Secretariat

Summary

The Joint UNECE/Eurostat Workshop on Implementing the Common Statistical Production Architecture was held in Geneva, Switzerland, from 22 to 24 June 2016. The workshop was organized in the context of the work of the High-Level Group on the Modernisation of Official Statistics. It aims to promote the use of the Common Statistical Production Architecture to facilitate the sharing of ideas and plans for modernising statistical production, and to identify opportunities for international collaboration activities.

The addendum is the report of that workshop and is provided to inform the Conference of European Statisticians on the implementation of the UNECE Statistical Programme 2016 in regards to its outcomes and recommendations.

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I. Introduction

1. The Joint UNECE / Eurostat Workshop on Implementing the Common Statistical Production Architecture (CSPA) was held in Geneva on 22-24 June 2016. It was jointly organized with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and an organizing committee with members from Australia, Canada, Kyrgyzstan, Netherlands, Sweden and the Statistical Office of the European Union (Eurostat).

2. The workshop was attended by representatives of the statistical offices of Albania, Austria, Bulgaria, Cambodia, Canada, China, Denmark, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Mexico, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Serbia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Singapore, Switzerland, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Tunisia, Turkey, United Kingdom and United States as well as by representatives of the European Central Bank, Eurostat, International Labour Organization (ILO), United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK), Eurasian Economic Commission, OECD, Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC), University of Bergen, and Cybernetica AS.

3. Ms. Lidia Bratanova, Director of the UNECE Statistical Division, welcomed participants, and Mr. Robert McLellan of Canada was elected as chair of the workshop.

4. The keynote presentation, by Mr. Emanuele Baldacci (Eurostat), outlined the need for substantial global strategic thinking regarding statistical production processes and the benefits of implementation initiatives like CSPA. CSPA allows statistical organizations to work together to identify gaps in production processes, share their knowledge to add new capabilities, and work together to innovate.

5. The agenda included the following substantive sessions, the outcomes of which are documented in the annex:

(a) CSPA Training;

(b) Hackathon;

(c) Presentations of CSPA-related initiatives;

(d) Break-out sessions by discipline on topics relating to CSPA.

6. All background documents and presentations for the workshop are available at www1.unece.org/stat/platform/display/CSPA/CSPA+Implementation+Workshop+2016:

- Agreement to conduct CSPA workshops regularly in the future;
- Further Hackathon initiatives, either face to face or virtually;
- Creation of a common brand and pronunciation ("see-spa");
- Increased communication and transparency in order to share experiences;
- A summary document, ideally in all United Nations languages, to be used for statistical conferences and marketing activities, explaining the business value of CSPA;
- More capacity building activities;
- Further development of the Logical Information Model;
- More methodological input on the issue of the optimal granularity of services;
- Work towards common principles for platforms and technologies;
- More guidance for business analysts (top down) and software architects / developers (bottom-up);

III. Summary of the discussion and main conclusions reached at the meeting

A. Session 1: CSPA training

7. This session was facilitated by Mr. Matjaz Jug (Netherlands), Pierre Peyronnel (Eurostat) and Steven Vale (UNECE). It included the following presentations:

- Introduction to the "Modernstats" Initiative and the key models and standards for the modernization of official statistics – Steven Vale;
- The Common Statistical Production Architecture as the basis for future statistical production – Steven Vale;
- Beyond services: Shared capabilities and catalogues – Steven Vale;
- Presentation and demonstration of the CSPA service catalogue – Pierre Peyronnel;
- Applying the CSPA approach in Statistics Netherlands – Matjaz Jug.

8. After the presentations, participants split into groups to discuss the perceived benefits and challenges of applying CSPA in statistical organizations before discussing the outcomes in plenary.

1. Perceived benefits

- Reduced cost due to increased efficiency and faster information transfer for data sharing;
- Standardisation of technology and platforms allows close alignment of systems across organizations;
- Exchanging methods and sharing of knowledge and documentation can get innovations and ideas to a wider audience;
- Easier to move to new components and replace old components, therefore increasing flexibility regarding statistical needs. At the same time, components created are more sustainable over time as required updates are not too frequent.

2. Perceived challenges

- CSPA implementation may bring increased complexity that is difficult to implement from a technical and business point of view;
- CSPA may require a big investment before any payoff is seen;
- Cultural and language barriers might make international cooperation and communication difficult;
- The required skills must be identified and training provided where needed;
- The transformation to CSPA could be a big and complex step.

3. Security issues

9. The following points were raised in questions, and were addressed by the facilitators:

- Is there the need to implement GSBPM before implementing CSPA? - CSPA services are described in relation to GSIM and GSBPM terminology, which is why

the implementation of these two standards would make the transition to CSPA much easier;

- Where to start with implementation? – On-going work on a modernisation roadmap and modernisation maturity models will provide a good starting point. Many organizations have started by describing current processes according to GSBPM phase and sub-processes in terms of this standard and then identify similarities between organizations;
- How to convince top managers? - The CSPA website offers material for senior managers, but convincing management is indeed a challenge that can be most easily tackled if many organizations participate in the implementation together;
- How can CSPA be made more accessible so that it is easier to grasp, navigate and visualise? Materials to communicate with subject-matter groups, as well as information on implementation experiences and good practices would be useful.

B. Session 2: Hackathon

10. The goal of the CSPA Hackathon was to create concrete deliverables and present them to the CSPA workshop on the 2nd day. The Hackathon was led by David Barraclough (OECD), who also presented the outcomes.

11. Challenges included the fact that this was the first time a CSPA Hackathon had been attempted, and deciding what exactly to work on. The limited time available meant that efficient teamwork was required. These challenges were overcome because all participants were adaptable and came to the Hackathon prepared with ideas. Grouping of similar ideas resulted in outputs in the following areas:

- Architectural models for the orchestration of services;
- Moving from a business process to service implementation;
- Guidelines for the creation of a CSPA enterprise architecture platform;
- Guidelines for the creation of a CSPA platform to support the production process of statistical information.

C. Session 3: Presentations of CSPA-related initiatives

12. This session was led by Robert McLellan (Canada). It included the following presentations:

- Eurostat: Business Case National Accounts Production System – Services (NAPS-S) project - Daniel Suranyi;
- Eurostat: Enterprise Architecture Reference Framework - Jean-Marc Museux;
- Eurostat: Validation Architecture including CSPA compliant validation services - Vincent Tronet;
- France: ESSNet Sharing Common Functionalities - Franck Cotton and Benoit Rouppert;
- Activities and issues from the CSPA Implementation Group;
- Mexico: INEGI plans for CSPA - Juan Munoz;
- Slovenia: The Role of Service Granularity in Successful CSPA Realisation - Zvone Klun;

- Canada: CSPA Activities and Confidentiality-on-the-Fly – Robert McLellan;
- Italy: Adopting CSPA and CORE in Istat: the role of enterprise architecture - Mauro Bruno;
- UNECE: Dissemination service - Marlen Jigitekov;
- OECD: Common Statistical Production Architecture – Where are we - Bruno Urban;
- Eurostat: Development of new IS architecture: IS4STAT input hall and its process manager, using CSPA compliant services - Pierre Peyronnel and Daniel Suranyi.

13. The following points were raised in the discussions:

- Further discussion regarding intellectual property and shareability is necessary soon;
- Important to start thinking about the integration of commercial products;
- To ensure progress, the priorities of the CSPA Implementation Group have to align with priorities of statistical organizations;
- How to systematically identify common required services and the scope of sharing? We have a palette of components and hopefully can relate that to technology and business needs;
- How is optimal granularity defined? Could a board of experts look at the advantages and disadvantages in order to identify the right level at which to define services?
- It is important that the user understands the building blocks. Those building blocks can further provide guidance without being too descriptive as they set a frame for the services;
- Gaps in the portfolio of available CSPA services need time to be filled.

D. Session 4: Break-out sessions by discipline on topics relating to CSPA

14. Participants were divided into the following groups in order to answer three key questions:

- Methodologists/Metadata and Subject-Matter Group, facilitated by Alice Born, Klas Blomqvist, Dan Gillman and Claude Poirier;
- Architects and IT Specialists Group, facilitated by Jean-Marc Museux, Hubertus Cloodt and Daniel Suranyi;
- Senior Management Group, facilitated by Steven Vale and Heini Salonen.

15. During the following plenary session, answers to common questions discussed by the three groups were presented:

What does CSPA mean for your specialism? How do you think it will change the way you work?

- CSPA is a communication tool that allows for a common language;
- It allows conversations to identify services needed;
- Skill sets can be combined to develop new capabilities;
- It reinforces the concept of service provider;
- CSPA allows identification of shared investment opportunities;
- Better coordination of timing for service delivery to meet the needs of users.

What more is needed to support CSPA adoption and use? What additional artefacts/guidance/support/communication materials would be useful to promote its implementation?

- It is important to adjust the ratio of specialisms in the room in order to have a more balanced conversation;
- Senior management support is essential. CSPA should be included in organizational strategy;
- Technical assistance is required on a national and sub-regional level;
- A summary paper would support tailored communication. A list of services to produce, including a development plan and schedule, would provide for more structured information;
- A common understanding of "service" is needed;
- Success stories can motivate people to learn, and should be spread to a wider audience through marketing and publicity at statistical conferences;
- Discussions should continue through face to face meetings.

What are the remaining barriers to CSPA implementation? How can we overcome these barriers?

- Easier access to a common catalogue will ease communication and understanding;
- Ensure future proofing e.g. integrated data sources, GIS and data warehouses;
- Organizational and cultural change may be needed to implement CSPA;
- Public funding restrictions pose difficulties for large investments in many countries.